

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-41 (cancelled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving information from a network-based information-provider comprising:

- a) providing a network-enabled, data-capture device configured to retrieve information from a network having at least one information provider operative to provide search results to queries defined at least in part by electronic representations of real-world entities;
- b) formulating a query for information to be supplied to a user by transforming data obtained from at least one real-world entity into an electronic representation of the real-world entity by way of said data capture device;
- c) retrieving information from said network-based, information-provider based on the query; and
- d) presenting the information by way of a user-output interface.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said data-capture device includes an image capture device.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said data-capture device includes a microphone.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said data-capture device includes a radio receiver.
46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said data-capture device includes a data-capture device selected from the group consisting of scent detector, taste sensor, geophone, motion sensor, acceleration meter, wind meter, thermometer, humidity sensor, texture sensor, location sensor, and global positioning system receiver.
47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said data-capture device is integrated into a cellular phone.
48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said data-capture device is integrated into a device selected from the group consisting of a wireless phone, netphone, personal digital assistant, portable computer, pager, and personal computer.
49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein said network-based information-provider is implemented as a network-based dedicated server configured to perform data-processing on data of the electronic representation of real-world entities by said data-capture device.
50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, said at least one network-based information-provider is selected from the group consisting of a World-Wide-Web site, intranet site, extranet site, database, knowledge-base, search engine, dedicated server and service center.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity includes an image.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity includes a sound recording.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity includes an information segment encoded in electromagnetic radiation.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity selected from the group consisting of odor, taste, texture, motion, and vibration.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said formulating a query includes fusing data of a plurality of electronic representations of real-world entities captured by said data-capture device.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said formulating a query includes fusing data inputted by a user with said at least one electronic representation of real-world entities captured by said data-capture device.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising presenting information retrieved from said information-provider service by way of a user output-device.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said user output device is selected from the group consisting of a visual output device, audio output device, textural output device, motion generator, electromagnetic transmitter, vibrator and scent generator.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 further comprising alerting a relevant party in response to the information retrieved from said network-based information-provider according to instructions inputted by a user by way of said user-input interface.

60. (Previously presented) A portable, network-enabled information retrieval device comprising:

- a) a portable, data-capture device for generating electronic representations of real-world entities;
- b) a network interface; and
- c) a processor, said processor being configured to generate network queries for retrieving information from a network containing information-provider, said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity captured by said data-capture device.

61. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said data-capture device includes an image capture device so as to be an image-based search engine.

62 (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said data-capture device includes a microphone so as to be an audio-based search engine.

63 (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said data-capture device includes a receiver of information segments encoded in electromagnetic transmissions.

64. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said data-capture device is selected from the group consisting of scent detector, taste sensor, geophone, motion sensor, acceleration meter, wind meter, thermometer, and humidity sensor

65. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said data-capture device is integrated into a cellular phone.

66 (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said data-capture device is integrated into a device selected from the group consisting of a wireless phone, netphone, personal digital assistant, portable computer, pager, and personal computer.

67. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity includes an image.

68. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity includes a sound recording.

69. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity includes an information segment encoded in electromagnetic radiation.

70. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said query being at least one electronic representation of a real-world entity selected from the group consisting of odor, taste, texture, and vibration.

71. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said processor being further configured to fuse data of a plurality of electronic representations of real world entities obtained by said data-capture device.

72. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, said processor being further configured to fuse data inputted by

way of a user input-interface with data of said electronic representation of real world entities obtained by said data-capture device.

73 (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, wherein said network-based information-provider is implemented as a network-based dedicated server configured to perform data processing on the captured data.

74. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, said at least one network-based information-provider is selected from the group consisting of a World-Wide-Web site, intranet site, extranet site, database, knowledge-base, search engine, dedicated server and service center.

75. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 60, further comprising an output device for presenting information retrieved from said information-provider to a user.

76. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 75, wherein said user output device is selected from the group consisting of a visual output device, audio output device, textural output device, motion generator, electromagnetic transmitter, vibrator and scent generator.

77. (Previously presented) The portable, network-enabled information retrieval device of claim 72, wherein said processor being configurable to alert a relevant party in response to the information retrieved from said

network-based information-provider according to instructions inputted by a user by way of said user-input interface.